(c) whether the same was not used and requirement of cabin was met through outsourcing which cost more than Rs. 100 crore till March, 2005; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) A 1500 T General Purpose (GPM) Hydraulic Press was commissioned in May 2003 for manufacture of various part of LPTA and Stallion vehicle including cabin.

(b) The Total cost of the Press is Rs. 3.55 crore.

(c) and (d) Hydraulic Press in question is beign utilized to its full capacity for manufacture of the components of Stallion and LPTA vehicles. However, the press is not being used for manufacture of cabin. The plan for manufacture of Cabin assembly in-house at Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur could not be pursued since it involved creation of other supplementary facilities with an investment of more than Rs. 75 crore each for LPTA and Stallion vehicles. Therefore such investment for manufacture of cabins at the present volume of production of LPTA & Stallion vehicles was not economically viable. As such, requirement of cabins is being met through collaborators as that is more economical.

Review of Offset Clause in Defence Procurement Procedure 2006

308. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to review the Offset Clause under the Defence Procurement Procedure 2006:

(b) if so, the details of the reasons warranting such a review; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the vendors have expressed reservations to the Offset Clause?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Offset Clause was incorporated in the Defence Procurement Procedure, 2006 promulgated with effect from 1.9.2006. The procedure is subject to modification on the basis of experience gained during the course of tits implementation. No changes have been made so far in the Offset provisions.

(c) Vendors have not expressed any reservation to the Offset Clause though they have given few suggestions.

DRDO suggestions to depression problems

†309. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research Development Organisation has given any suggestions for resolving of the problems confronting the soldiers such as depression, difficult working conditions owing to the proxy war;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of units where these reforms have been implemented;

(d) whether the same would be implemented in other units after studying their results; and

(e) by when these reform would be implemented in all the units?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR), a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(DRDO), had conducted two studies. One on the "Psycho-Social aspect of optimizing the operational efficiency of Security Forces to combat insurgency" during September 2000—May 2005 in the North Eastern Region. The major outcomes of the study are:

(i) Three main operational stressors, like fear of torture, uncertain environment and domestic stresses are responsible for most of psychological problems in various group of Armed Forces.

(ii) Middle rank Officers as compared to Jawans and Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) were found to be more vulnerable and stressed out.

(iii) Mental disorders in the form of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) have been observed in traumatized troops, which form the basis for various somatic symptoms.

(iv) About six to nine months after the detention of captured militants is most appropriate period to change in the attitudes of youth and influence their minds towards national identification.

(v) A strong need to inoculate and orient officers by undertaking Combat Stress Management training Programmes.

(vi) Need for immediate therapeutic intervention during post-traumatic stress disorders jointly by unit leaders and professional psychologists.

(vii) There is a strong need to carry out an appropriate need analysis with respect to demographic variables of a particular region.

Another study was carried out in December 2006 on "Suicide and Fratricide among troops deployed in counter insurgency areas" and suggested a number of remedial measures to deal with stress related issues in the Army. Some of the suggestions are: liberalized leave policy, deployment of psychological counsellors in counter surgency areas, periodical review, monitoring and analysis of stress related incidents, organizations of stress management training programmes and disseminations of reading materials on stress management in appropriate languages, etc.

(c) and (e) The remedial measures to manage stress have been implemented in entire Army both in field and peace areas.

Joint Marketing Strategy for Export of Brahmos

310. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Indo-Russian joint venture that makes Brahmos is still awaiting an inter-government agreement that will allow it to market the weapon system globally;

(b) whether Governments of India and Russia are yet to formulate a joint marketing strategy for the sale of the Brah Mos system to other countries; and

(c) if so, by what time joint marketing strategy is going to be formulated for the export of this Supersonic Missile?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) There is already an inter-governmental agreement signed in February 1998 between Russia and India for design, development, manufacture and export of Brah Mos missile to friendly countries.

(b) and (c) Discussions are on regarding export of Brahmos missile systems to some friendly countries.